

REMARKS

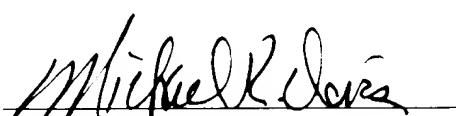
The foregoing amendments avoid the multiple dependency of the original claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Mieko SAKAI et al.

By



Michael R. Davis

Registration No. 25,134

Attorney for Applicants

MRD/aeh
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 23, 2001

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0075

Version with Markings to
Show Changes Made

What is claimed is:

1. A high hardness, soft composite material which consists of an organic/inorganic composite material having at least 60% by weight of inorganic components including an aggregate component, and which has a surface vickers hardness (JIS Z 2244) of at least 400 and a radius of curvature, at which the material is bendable without being broken, of at least R25 mm based on a platy body having a 3 to 15 mm thickness.

2. The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the radius of curvature R is 25 to 1,000 mm.

3. The composite material according to claim 1 [etc], wherein the inorganic components comprise an aggregate component of a 2 to 70 mesh size, and a fine particle component of a small particle size of 100 mesh or smaller.

4. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 to 3, wherein the weight ratio of the aggregate component and the fine particle component is (aggregate component/fine particle component) = 1/10 to 10/1.

5. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 to 4, wherein the organic component is contained by 40% by weight or less with respect to the total amount.

6. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 to 5, wherein the main component of the organic component is a curing type resin.

7. The composite material according to [any of] claims 6 ~~to~~, wherein the main component resin of the organic component is a methacrylic based resin.

8. The composite material according to [any of] claims 6 ~~to~~, wherein a plasticizer is contained as the organic component.

9. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein the resin component is contained by 6 to 15% by weight with respect to the total amount.

10. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein a transparent component is contained at least as a part of the aggregate component.

11. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein a transparent component with the surface covered with a pigment component is contained at least as a part of the aggregate component.

12. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein a luminous material or a fluorescent material is contained.

13. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein a flame retarder is contained.

14. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein a pigment for coloring is contained in the organic component.

15. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~to~~, wherein an antibacterial agent is contained.

16. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~et seq.~~, wherein the surface of a compact is treated by polishing, a water jet process, or a water jet process after polishing.

17. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~et seq.~~, wherein the main component of the organic component is the methacrylic based resin, to be cured by a combination of a polymethacrylate and at least one selected from the group consisting of a methacrylate monomer, and an acrylate monomer.

18. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~et seq.~~, wherein the polymethacrylate is a polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the methacrylate monomer and the acrylate monomer is one selected from the group consisting of a methyl methacrylate, an ethylhexyl methacrylate, and an ethylhexyl acrylate.

19. The composite material according to [any of] claims 1 ~~et seq.~~, wherein a force needed for a bending process of a platy body having a 3 to 15 mm thickness is 1 kgf/cm² or less.